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A Minister Imprisoned in the Old South for His Beliefs Relates His Unique Story of Faith and Perseverance

TUPELO

*The True Story of a Northern Clergyman's
Escape from a Confederate Prison*

by John Hill Aughey

This book is, for the most part, the story of John Hill Aughey's experience in the iron furnace. It is interesting, as every genuine personal narrative is interesting, and it is of very decided value as a picture of Mississippi society, manners, and morals, and as illustrative of the influence of slavery on character—The North American Review

Repression of dissent in the pre-Civil War South is an issue that is rarely discussed. Although it is known that Southerners and their government officials did not generally tolerate criticism of the prevailing concepts of slavery and states' rights, we have less reliable information as to the extent and methods of censorship. Furthermore, in order to obtain a full understanding of the culture that led to the Civil War, we need to challenge many "facts" of dubious authenticity, especially in respect to the moral and ethical codes of the "genteel" South.

TUPELO (Bylany Press), by John Hill Aughey, is a brilliant first person, totally truthful account, of a man imprisoned and condemned to execution by the brutal officials of the South for his outspoken anti-Secession and pro-Union beliefs. He makes a truly miraculous escape, to report the details of his ordeal in what was to become a highly praised and popular autobiography. Indeed, this book paints a grim picture of political fanaticism, where human rights and justice are sacrificed in the name of patriotism. Every aspect of Aughey's life and work was examined in detail by his captors; even his French heritage and his Protestant religious views were the subject of contentious deliberation.

Although he certainly has harsh words for supporters of secession, Aughey portrays other Southerners with sympathy. He realized that some residents of the slave states had to conceal their anti-government opinions, lest they too be persecuted, and he urged Northerners not to censure them for their silence. He was especially eager to protect the reputation of his fellow ministers, saying that many had protested slavery and secession before the oppression came.

TUPELO, out of print for more than 100 years, will surely enlighten everyone about the terrifying dangers of complacency and ambivalence in the face of mob fanaticism. The process of rebellion is examined, how it grows, manifests itself, and finally flares up into anarchy and madness.

John Hill Aughey (1803-1879) was a native of New York, and up to Secession a Presbyterian minister in Mississippi. He originally wrote of his personal experiences in a book called *The Iron Furnace of Secession*, published in 1863. He greatly expanded on this work, and published it in a new edition called *Tupelo* in 1888. In 1905 Rhodes & McClure published a further version of it, which is the one we have used here. Many accolades from well known individuals, including Horace Greeley, were given for Aughey's memoirs after their original publication.

TUPELO is an excellent book for readers across the age spectrum. Everyone will find considerable interest in the inner workings of Southern society, especially its government. Further, it is a work that can do much to educate young people about the importance of standing up for one's convictions, and at the same time teaching them the values of perseverance and faith.

Paul Dennis Sporer (editor) is the author of *The Dimensions of Companionship; Liberating Love; The Concept of Family; and Equal but Different*. He has also served as editor on more than 30 culturally and historically significant books, including *Painting Explained*, by Thomas Gullick; *Is Secession Treason?*, by Albert Bledsoe; *The Heart of Aryavarta*, by Lawrence Dundas; *Beauty and Art*; by Aldam Heaton; *The French at Home*, by Albert Rhodes; *From Slave Cabin to Pulpit*, by Peter Randolph; *Newer Ideals of Peace*, by Jane Addams; *Views of Old Europe*, by Bayard Taylor; *Gentle Measures*, by Jacob Abbott; *Parental Influences*, William Bacon; *Finding a Way Out*, by Robert Moton; *The New Birth*, by Austin Phelps; *Tupelo*, by John Hill Aughey; *An Incident of Travel*, Arthur Jerome Eddy; *End of an Era*, by John Sergeant Wise; *The Missionary*, by Samuel Mazzuchelli; *Half a Century*, by Jane Swisshelm; *Born Three Times*, by Thomas L. Johnson; *Dark Hollow*, by Anna Katharine Green; and *1492: Admiral of the Ocean Sea*, by Mary Johnston.

For further information about **TUPELO**, or to arrange an interview with the editor, please contact Cassandra Foxton, inform_at_anzapublishing.com. The publisher's website address is AnzaPublishing.com.

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